



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 22, 2000

S. 2950

Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on September 20, 2000*

S. 2950 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in Colorado once the National Park Service (NPS) has acquired sufficient resources at the site to provide for its preservation and interpretation. The NPS could acquire lands and other property interests within the 12,480-acre site by donation, purchase, or exchange. The bill would require the NPS to dedicate a portion of the site to the preservation of human remains, funerary objects, and other items that might be found on or returned to the site. Within five years of receiving funding for this purpose, the agency would prepare a general management plan for the site. Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for these activities.

CBO estimates that the NPS would spend \$14.5 million over the next five to seven years to implement S. 2950, including \$2 million to acquire land for the new historic site, \$12 million to construct visitor and administrative facilities, and \$0.5 million to prepare a management plan. Once sufficient land has been acquired to establish the site, the agency would spend about \$1.3 million a year to operate and maintain it, including making payments in lieu of taxes to local governments. CBO estimates that providing space within the site for human remains and tribal objects would not add significantly to start-up or annual operating costs. These estimates are based on information provided by the NPS and assume appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 2950 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. State and tribal governments might incur some costs if they choose to participate in the activities authorized by this bill, but these costs would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.